Garsington Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 9th May 2005 commencing at 8.30pm after the Annual Parish Meeting was concluded.

The Chairman, Councillor Godfrey Eden, presided; present were Councillors David Baker, Anne Eastwood, Cliff Moss and Cliff Shuker with G Russell in attendance. Also present were six residents of the Parish.

1. Apologies for Absence were accepted from Cllrs Bolam and Saini who were, respectively, away on business and attending a funeral. District Cllr Ann Tomline was also unable to attend and had sent her apologies.

2. Election of Parish Council Chairman 2005/6

The Clerk took the chair for this item. Cllr Cliff Moss proposed Cllr Godfrey Eden and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Anne Eastwood. There were no other nominations; Cllr Eden was declared elected and resumed the chair.

3. Election of Parish Council Vice-Chairman 2005/6

Cllr Godfrey Eden proposed Cllr Cliff Moss and this was seconded by Cllr Cliff Shuker. There were no other nominations and Cllr Moss was declared elected.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Eden and Shuker declared personal and prejudicial interests in the matter of P05/W0422 Garsington Manor; Variation of Condition 3 of planning permission P01/N0620 to allow 21 opera performances per annum; Cllr Eden because of his employment by the artist in residence in previous years and Cllr Shuker because he provides bed and breakfast facilities to persons connected with opera performances.

5. Public Participation

The Chairman invited members of the public with an interest in any of the planning applications to address the Council.

Miss Creed and Mrs Ingrams spoke in support of the application (PO5/W0422) which would allow the Opera Company to increase the number of annual opera performances from twenty to twenty-one. Miss Creed explained that this would have several benefits, including allowing more people to attend, an increase in the recovery of production costs and an extra night’s employment for the performers. Mrs Ingrams said that the total number of public events that take place at the Manor would not increase beyond the thirty-five days currently permitted and that the number of Village events would not be reduced.

Speaking against the application Miss Waud said that she believed that if successful the application would have wide implications. She said that the conditions which apply under the present planning consent are not properly observed and she wanted the Parish Council to make sure that the District Council is made to enforce those conditions. She believed it would be inappropriate for the new application to be approved while the legitimate objections and complaints of residents in Southend remain unresolved. The situation was unsatisfactory and had been for the past three years at least.

6 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 4th April 2005

These Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

i. Payphone at Kings Copse; The Clerk said that BT is unwilling to reinstate the payphone because past demand has been very low, but it was pointed out the presence of this phone is vital for emergency use and the nearest alternative is a considerable distance away. The Clerk will contact BT again.

ii. Birch Road trees; County Cllr David Turner had said during the Parish Meeting that the County has received some acceptable quotes and, although the matter is not being treated as high priority, he hoped that there would some action soon.

iii. Mr John Palmer; this matter is to be carried forward.

iv. Traffic Calming; the Chairman said that he expected the County Council, following the favourable results of the survey of local residents, to progress the consultation process.

v. The Clerk said that he understood that English Heritage have made no further contact with IJP Building Contractors and he would continue to pursue the matter.

vi. The Parish Council has been invited to attend the SODC Committee on 17th May at which the Restricted Theatre Licence application by Garsington Opera will be heard but no-one is available.

vii. Replacement seat at The Gizzel; It was agreed that Cllr Anne Eastwood should make a choice from the seats featured in the catalogue from Orchard Street Furniture.

viii. Cllr Shuker said that he had received quotes from fencing contractors for the site off Oxford Road and asked that the matter be put on the agenda for the June meeting.

ix. Through the Chairman, Cllr Paul Bolam said that he had received the possible affordable housing sites map from Suzanne Willers and would set up a meeting of the sub-committee to go over it and also the planners’ responses.

x. The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Rev Cowles about the levelling of graves. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate all members with copies of the Burial Ground regulations so that the matter could be discussed in June.

8. Finance and cheques for signature

The balances were:

Barclays Current Account at 29th April £13,214

Bank of Ireland at 6th April £114, 989 with £347.06 interest received this month.

The following cheques were approved for payment:

ColourPlus £613.74

Clerk Salary £262.69

Clerk Expenses £68.74

Oxford Green Belt Network (sub) £15

It was agreed to add the name of Cliff Moss to the Barclays mandate.

The Bank of Ireland Mandate will be amended at the June meeting. This will require the signatures of some former members of the Council. Cllrs Eden, Moss and Shuker signed the form with any two signatures required to transact and give instructions.

An appeal from the charity Childline will be considered at the next meeting.

9. Planning

a. Applications

P05/W0373 44, Wheatley Road

New tiled roof to existing sunroom to side and rear of property

The Council agreed that this application should be approved

P05/W0398/LB 36 The Hill

To completely remove existing thatch to allow replacement of collapsed roof structure; repair southerly gable/buttress; re-thatch with combed wheat.

The Council agreed that this application should be approved

Cllrs Eden and Shuker left the room while the following item was discussed with Cllr Moss in the chair

P05/W0422 Garsington Manor

Variation of Condition 3 of planning permission P01/N0620 to allow 21 opera performances per annum.

The Council noted the contents of a letter which had been sent to all members by Mr and Mrs Leonard Ingrams which included a copy of their letter to local residents.

After some discussion the Council voted by 2 votes to 1 that this application should be approved but only as long as existing conditions are observed.

P05/W0423/O 69 Southend; Erection of four bedroom dwelling with shared access to rear of existing property (outline)

The Council noted the contents of a letter from Mrs Shirley Royal, a neighbour who opposed the application. It was agreed that the proposal would amount to an overdevelopment of the site which is outside the building line and the Council recommended that the application should be refused.

P05/W0465 Willow House, 87 South End

Erection of a three bay cat slide cart shed, tractor store and car garage with doors and log store to side

The Council could see no defined access to this development and agreed to recommend that the application should be refused

b. Decisions and other Planning Matters

P05/W0342 Boundary Bungalow; Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling.

Planning permission was granted on 29th April.

10. Correspondence to Chairman and Clerk

i. Cllr Moss reported that contractors working at Garsington House on Clinkards Hill are causing problems to passers by. The Chairman asked if they are causing an obstruction and Cllr Shuker said that he would investigate the matter.

ii. The Chairman agreed to look at the consultation documents concerning the draft local transport plan.

iii. The District Council is not after all going to re-instate the green waste collection service from the Sports Club car park but it is introducing two different types of sack in which recyclable waste can be collected: clear plastic sacks, which will keep waste paper dry and therefore of greater recycling value, and biodegradable paper sacks which will take waste for composting. These sacks are not yet available but when they are Cllr Shuker agreed to take stock of them at least for a test period.

iv. The Chairman has been contacted in connection with the maintenance of one of the burial plots in the Cemetery. The Council will consider this complaint in the context of its general discussion about the regulations next month.

v. The comments of the Standards Board in connection with its investigation of a complaint made about Cllr Eden will be circulated to all members.

vi. Notes concerning the meeting of the Oxford Fringe Forum will be circulated as will a brochure about the proposed festivities to mark Trafalgar Weekend in October.

vii. The Chairman said that he had approved a request for the late Mrs Doreen King to be buried at St Mary’s Church and the Council confirmed this decision.

viii. It was agreed that two new ‘bucket’ swing seats should be ordered and Cllr Moss will put the damaged swings out of action until the replacements are fitted. The Clerk will circulate a copy of the Cllr Moss’s draft list pf Play Area routine checks and tasks for discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.58 pm